

**CHARTER COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**DEPARTMENT REORGANIZATION AND CITY COUNCIL PROCEDURES TO BE
CONSIDERED BY THE CHARTER COMMISSION**

HONOLULU, HAWAII, January 27, 2006

The 2005-2006 Honolulu City Charter Commission will consider 19 charter amendment proposals on **Tuesday, January 31, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.** in the Planning Conference Room of the Mission Memorial Building (City Hall Annex, 550 S. King Street). The Commission will hear testimony, discuss, and vote on proposals regarding **merging and dividing of City departments, City Council procedures**, and various other topics (see list of proposals below). This is the fourth meeting of the Commission's initial review of charter amendment proposals.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. The public is encouraged to attend Charter Commission meetings and provide written and/or oral testimony. Copies of all proposals are available for viewing at Commission office at 711 Kapiolani Boulevard Suite 1485 or the Municipal Library at 558 S. King Street. PDF files of the proposals are also posted on the Commission website, <http://www.honolulu.gov/chc>.

THIRTY-TWO PROPOSALS PASSED TO NEXT STAGE. The Commission has already passed 32 proposals on to the next stage of the process:

- 9 proposals regarding City department/director descriptions (December 13)
- 7 proposals on the City's planning and zoning process (December 13)
- 4 proposals on government ethics (January 10)
- 2 proposals on the City budget (January 10)
- 3 proposals to establish new agencies/funds (January 10)
- 2 proposals on the Neighborhood Commission/Neighborhood Boards (January 24)
- 5 "housekeeping" measures (January 24)

All voting results are available on the Commission website, <http://www.honolulu.gov/chc>.

NEXT STEPS. One additional meeting (tentatively February 7) will focus on elections, officer terms, and other governance topics, and will complete the Commission's initial review process. Proposals will also be discussed at islandwide public hearings in March 2006. Ultimately, the selected proposed charter amendments will be placed on the 2006 General Election ballot for voters' approval.

ABOUT THE COMMISSION. The Charter Commission is a 13-member appointed body responsible for revising the city charter, the governing document for the City & County of Honolulu. The convening of a Charter Commission provides a rare and important opportunity for major changes to city government. This is only the fourth Charter Commission convened since the adoption of the city charter in 1972.

For more information, visit the Charter Commission website at <http://www.honolulu.gov/chc> or contact the Commission staff at 592-8622 or charter@honolulu.gov.

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS

For discussion and voting by the Charter Commission on

Tuesday, January 31, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.

in the Mission Memorial Building (City Hall Annex) Planning Conference Room

RELATING TO CITY COUNCIL

PROPOSAL 1 - Salary Commission; Amend provision regarding Council review of Commission findings.

PROPOSAL 53 - City Council; Allow the Council to designate which Councilmember will serve as Council chair and presiding officer pro tempore when both the chair and vice-chair are absent or disabled.

PROPOSAL 54 - Ordinances; Clarify that amendments to existing codified ordinances may be made by the City Council by reference to the codified provisions, rather than by reference to the numbered ordinances that may be enacted.

PROPOSAL 61 - Councilmember terms; Change the beginning time of the terms of Councilmember.

PROPOSAL 62 - Council Resolutions; Modify the requirement that resolutions be read in full except by unanimous consent.

RELATING TO REORGANIZATION

PROPOSAL 20 - Department of Planning and Permitting; Undo the combination of the previously separated department.

PROPOSAL 59 - Department of Planning and Permitting; Divide the functions of the Department of Planning and Permitting into a Department of Planning and a Department of Permitting.

PROPOSAL 48 - Board of Water Supply and Wastewater; Merge the City's Wastewater Management functions with the Board of Water Supply; change method of appointment of Board.

PROPOSAL 58 - Department of Budget and Fiscal Services; Divide the functions of the Department of Budget and Fiscal Services into a Department of Budget and a Department of Fiscal Services.

PROPOSAL 60 - Department of Design and Construction; Eliminate the Department of Design and Construction and divide its functions and return them to the various subject area departments.

FOR SUPERMAJORITY REVIEW

PROPOSAL S-1 - Fire Dept and Emergency Services Dept; Merge Fire Department and Emergency Services Dept.

PROPOSAL S-2 - Privatization; Allow privatization of municipal services.

PROPOSAL S-3 - Budget; Change city budget process from annual to biennial.

PROPOSAL S-4 - Corporation Counsel and Prosecuting Attorney; Merge Corporation Counsel and Prosecuting Attorney.

PROPOSAL S-6 - Petitions; Delete requirement of Social Security numbers on petitions.

PROPOSAL S-7 - Department of Environmental Services and Department of Facility Maintenance; Merge DES and DFM to create Department of Public Works

PROPOSAL S-8 - Permits and Licenses; Protections for natural resources, public health, and native Hawaiian practices

PROPOSAL S-9 - Department of Transportation Services - Revise Powers, Duties and Functions; Promote pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly city

PROPOSAL S-10 - Public notices; Distribution of public notices via a widely accessible electronic medium.

PDF files of the proposals are posted on the Commission website,
<http://www.honolulu.gov/chc>.

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